

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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JEB 49510

Copy to: 1 - Immigration and Naturalization Service, SECRET
San Diego (REGISTERED)

Report of: DONALD R. BELMONT Office: SAN DIEGO
Date: May 27, 1966

Field Office File: San Diego 105-6013 Bureau File #: 105-147037

Title: CANDRE BELA LOUIS BAK
aka Andrew Bela Bak
DPOB 24 June 1912 KALOZSVAR, Zalazs, Hungary
San Diego, CALIFORNIA USA

Character: INTERNAL SECURITY - FRANCE Former member of Hungarian
REGISTRATION ACT - FRANCE army who is allegedly
connected with French IS.

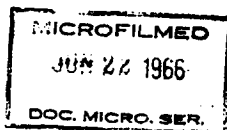
Synopsis:

Additional employers and acquaintances of subject contacted in San Diego, none have knowledge of any French Intelligence connections of subject. GUSTAV J. BUJKOVSKY, San Diego, advised subject is member of Los Angeles Branch of MHBK, a Hungarian Army Veterans organization. Dr. MICHAEL A. KANNAS reinterviewed at Pomona, California, advised that PAUL HODOSY-STROBL, Woodside, California, former General of Police in Hungary and Chief of MHBK, can verify subject's connection with French Intelligence. KANNAS furnished names of persons who would know address of DEZSO I. BENYO. Also furnished names of persons in Canada and France who could furnish information regarding subject. No record of employment of subject by Department of Army, U. S. Corps of Engineers, Morocco Engineer Area, located at Federal Records Center, St. Louis, Missouri.

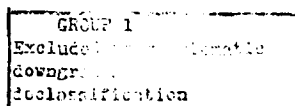
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DETAILS: AT SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

On April 20, 1966, STEVE MUHLBACHER, 3722 Dove Street, was interviewed at his place of employment, Fred S. Dubin Associates,



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7911 Herschel, La Jolla. He advised he met subject while both were employed by Frank I. Hope and Associates and he has seen subject occasionally since then at the Hungarian House in Balboa Park. He stated subject is about thirty years older than he and they do not associate closely; however, he had come to know subject fairly well during their employment together. Subject indicated he had been an officer in the Hungarian Army, that he left Hungary in 1945 and spent about ten years in France, and subsequently several years in Algeria working for a French company. Subject had indicated he divorced his wife in Paris, France, and that she had left him when he was in poor financial condition.

MUHLBACHER stated he had no knowledge as to whether subject had ever worked for the French Government or had belonged to any political organizations in France or in the United States. He stated subject is very much opposed to Communism and he considers subject to be a gentleman, a very hard worker and a physical culture enthusiast. He stated he feels subject would be a loyal United States citizen should he be allowed to become a citizen.

MUHLBACHER stated subject had indicated to him that he has Hungarian friends in France and that on one occasion about three years ago MUHLBACHER visited in Paris, France, and saw several of BAK's friends, one of whom was a Hungarian count who had lost everything to the Communists prior to leaving Hungary. MUHLBACHER did not recall the names of these individuals.

On April 22, 1966, Mrs. MARGARET DOLLAR, Secretary, Tucker, Sadler and Bennett, 2411 Second Avenue, advised records of that company indicate that ANDRE BAK was employed as an engineering draftsman from March 23, 1964 to June 5, 1964. During this time, he resided at 351 West Robinson, San Diego.

On April 22, 1966, Mr. EDWIN M. BENNETT, Partner and Chief Engineer, Tucker, Sadler and Bennett, advised subject was terminated in his position as engineering draftsman because of a language problem and because his training was somewhat different from the company method of drafting and there was a problem in trying to retrain subject. He stated he had no

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knowledge of subject's background and that subject had never discussed his past with BENNETT. He stated he had never received any information to indicate subject had any present or prior connections with the French Government or with any organizations.

Mr. BENNETT stated he recalled that the day after BAK was hired a man, name not recalled, telephoned him to say he had known subject in Europe and that he was a reliable person and that he would recommend him for the job.

On May 2, 1966, Mrs. PEARL MC MILLAN, Bookkeeper, Precision, Incorporated - Princess Homes, Incorporated, 3030 State Street, advised her records show that ANDRE BELA BAK, 351 West Robinson Avenue, Social Security Number 148-36-5864, was employed as a draftsman from the end of July, 1964 to the second week in October, 1964. She had no personal recollection of BAK.

Mr. JACK BURRIS, Supervisor, advised on the same date, he recalled BAK slightly but that since he was employed only a short time he knew little about his background or his political views. He recalled that BAK spoke poor English and there was a problem in communicating with him. He stated BAK terminated his job because he felt he was not able to handle the work. He recalled that BAK had indicated he had previously worked for a company in Los Angeles and that the work was very exacting. Mr. BURRIS stated he was quite certain the name of the company was Fairchild Aerial Photographers in Los Angeles.

On May 3, 1966, Mr. JOHN S. IVANY, 351 West Robinson Street, advised he has known ANDRE BAK for thirty years. He stated BAK was formerly a Captain on the General Staff of the Hungarian Army during World War II and that he, IVANY, was also a Captain in the Hungarian Army and was in the same division as BAK, although he was not on the General Staff. He stated BAK was captured by the French or the Americans and was in a Prisoner of War Camp in Bavaria or in France. IVANY was captured in Bavaria and he remained in Germany at the end of the war. He stated he understood that BAK remained in France after the war for three or four years, that he spent eight or nine years with the United States Army Corps of

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Engineers in Morocco during the construction of air bases and subsequently came to the United States. He worked for some company in Newark, New Jersey, and subsequently came to San Diego. IVANY stated that BAK had a friend, COLOMAN FURCS, a draftsman who he believed worked for the same company in Newark, New Jersey, where BAK had worked.

IVANY stated BAK had informed him his wife had divorced him in France and had remarried and BAK had once indicated that he has a brother in Hungary, name unknown to IVANY, and that this brother is a piano teacher.

IVANY stated that BAK had told him that while in Europe he was a member of the MHSK (Magyar Harcosok Bajtarsi Kozossege), which IVANY stated is an organization of Hungarian Army Veterans organized with the aim of helping the old Hungary. He stated this organization has branches in all the large cities of the United States and that it collects money to aid Hungary with the aim of liberating it from Communist domination. The headquarters in the United States is in Cleveland, Ohio, and the head of the organization in Cleveland is one ERNEST GODANY.

IVANY stated he himself was formerly a member of the MHSK in Germany, but that he is no longer a member inasmuch as he feels this organization can accomplish nothing to aid Hungary and the money the members contribute to the organization is merely wasted in the operation of the organization. He stated BAK has never mentioned being a member of MHSK in the United States and he does not know if there is a branch of that organization in San Diego.

IVANY stated when BAK first came to San Diego he lived in IVANY's home for two or three weeks and, when he subsequently moved to his current residence, he had continued to use IVANY's address as a mailing address for a period of time.

IVANY stated he has no knowledge that BAK ever worked for the French Government at any time. He stated BAK is anti-Communist and he did not return to Hungary at the end of the war because of his dislike for Communism.

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On May 6, 1946, Mr. GUSTAV J. BUKOVSKY, 315 Ninth Street, Del Mar, California, was interviewed by SAs DONALD R. BELMONT and HOWARD D. WESLEY at his place of employment, General Dynamics Corporation, Convair Division, 5001 Kearny Villa Road, at which time he furnished the following information:

He has known ANDRE BAK since 1931, having attended the same high school in Hungary. BAK was three years ahead of him in school. BAK was born in Hungary, and served in the Hungarian Army during World War II. He held the rank of Captain, and was on the General Staff, being Chief of Staff of one of the armored divisions.

At the end of the war in 1945, BAK left Hungary and went to France. He lived in Paris, France, for about four years, becoming a French citizen. During this time, he worked for several small manufacturers as a tool designer and draftsman, and was also self-employed for about a year or a year and a half doing the same type of work.

About 1949, BAK went to Morocco, where he worked for the United States Army Corps of Engineers as a civil engineer during the time they were constructing air bases in that country. It was BUKOVSKY's belief that BAK was a grade GS-9 civilian employee at that time, and that he had received a security clearance as an alien civilian employee.

When the air bases were completed, BAK remained in Morocco for a period of time working for a private Moroccan firm as a draftsman. When Morocco became independent, it became increasingly difficult for foreigners to obtain employment there and BAK decided to come to the United States to seek employment. He had a friend, a Colonel BELA SOMOSKUTI, in New York City, who helped him come to this country in August, 1951, and helped him secure employment initially as a draftsman with a firm in Newark, New Jersey. BAK lived with SOMOSKUTI for a period of time when he first arrived in this country. SOMOSKUTI is now employed by Clark and Associates, a highway and bridge construction company, in New York City.

BAK was not particularly happy in Newark, and he corresponded with BUKOVSKY regarding coming to the West Coast,

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and eventually came to San Diego. BUJKOVSKY was instrumental in getting him various jobs in San Diego as a draftsman; however, it was difficult to find permanent work in this field in San Diego, and BUJKOVSKY eventually persuaded him to try learning a new line of work. He eventually convinced BAK he would have a good chance at permanent employment in computer programming, and BAK took a training course in this field. Upon completion of this course, BUJKOVSKY was instrumental in getting him a job as a computer programmer at the First National Bank in San Diego.

With regard to any ties BAK may still have in Hungary, BUJKOVSKY stated he knows BAK has a brother, name unknown, in Hungary. BAK never got along well with this brother, who is a pianist and was formerly a concert pianist, and has a typical artistic temperament, which BAK never understood. BUJKOVSKY said he is not aware that BAK has any other relatives in that country. He stated BAK's wife divorced him in France and she still lives in France and has remarried. It was BUJKOVSKY's belief that BAK was deeply hurt by the divorce, and he doubted that he would again marry.

BUJKOVSKY stated that insofar as he knows, BAK never did any intelligence work for the Hungarian Army or for the French Government, or for any other government. He stated he likewise had no knowledge that BAK had ever performed any voluntary work for the French Government, such as acting as interpreter in the interview of Hungarian refugees. He expressed the opinion that being a refugee himself and a newcomer to France, the French would not be likely to trust him to the extent of utilizing him in that capacity, particularly as he had come from a country which fought against France during the war.

BUJKOVSKY stated he is aware of the fact that BAK is a member of the Los Angeles branch of the MHRK, which in English is known as the OSHV or the Collegial Society of Hungarian Veterans in the United States of America. This organization is a recognized organization in the United States and has its headquarters in Cleveland, Ohio, and its aim is the liberation of Hungary from Communist control. BUJKOVSKY noted that he himself had at one time been asked to form a chapter in San Diego, but had not done so because he did not think there were enough potential members, and since the actual accomplishments of this

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group is generally nothing more than getting together and discussing the old days in the Army, he did not feel it was worth bothering with. He stated most of the Hungarians in San Diego know each other and that many of them belong to the House of Pacific Relations, House of Hungary, located in Balboa Park, San Diego, where they can fraternize. BUJKOVSKY said he himself was president of the House of Hungary for three years.

With regard to BAK's personal traits, BUJKOVSKY stated he considers him to be a man of great integrity and character, and he regards him very highly. As to his political beliefs, he noted that BAK had apparently lived in France long enough to acquire some of the French political views, and BAK has indicated he approves of General DE GAULLE and believes DE GAULLE is doing right. He stated that BAK, like so many Hungarian refugees, clings to the belief that Hungary may again become as it was before coming under Communist control, and he retains a degree of loyalty to this old Hungary. He stated he felt certain BAK has not come under any Communist influence, and he has no knowledge that BAK's brother is under Communist influence or has attempted to influence BAK.

BUJKOVSKY stated he has frequent discussions with BAK on these matters, trying to convince BAK that things will never again be as they were in the old Hungary, and he feels he is making some headway with him. He stated BAK was quite discouraged when he was having difficulty finding work, but appears to be quite happy in his present job.

BUJKOVSKY stated, in conclusion, that he had never heard of anyone named DEZSO RENYO.

AT POMONA, CALIFORNIA

The following investigation was conducted by SA WILLIAM V. SCRUGGS, on April 22, 1966:

Dr. MICHAEL ALAN KANNAS, psychologist, Pacific State Hospital, advised ANDREW BAK was openly a representative of the MHRK. BAK's participation in the MHRK can be verified by his former boss and chief of the MHRK, PAUL HODOSY-STROBL,

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3763 Woodside Road, Woodside, California, who works for the Society of the Treasonable Men.

HODOSY-STROBL was a former general of police in Hungary during 1944 - 1945 prior to becoming chief of the MHBK. HODOSY-STROBL attempted to immigrate to the United States, but had to go to Brazil instead. One of HODOSY-STROBL's daughters was successful in immigrating to the United States and later HODOSY-STROBL was accepted through his daughter's efforts.

Dr. KANNAS advised, if he will, HODOSY-STROBL can verify that BAK was a Hungarian staff officer who later was connected with the MHBK and also his connection with the French Intelligence.

Dr. KANNAS advised that he does not know anyone else in the United States who could furnish any information in this matter but there are two persons presently residing in Canada who knew BAK and could furnish information concerning him, if they will. He advised these individuals are LESLIE JAMES and STEVEN TURANY of Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Dr. KANNAS advised that BAK was replaced by PETER BREZNAY, who was last known to be residing in Paris, France, and he could furnish information concerning BAK, if he so desires.

Dr. KANNAS advised that DELZO I. BENYO visited in the Los Angeles area during July or August, 1965 and while in the Los Angeles area he contacted JOHN EROS, 16666 Radiant Court in Covina, California. He advised that BENYO was visited at EROS' residence by JOZSEF PAPP, 4031 North Walnut, Baldwin Park, California. Dr. KANNAS advised that he was requested to stop by EROS' residence to see BENYO and while he was at EROS' residence, PAPP stopped in and from conversation it was obvious that both EROS and PAPP knew BENYO well. He advised he is of the opinion that EROS or PAPP could furnish information concerning BENYO's exact residence in the United States, if they will do so.

Dr. KANNAS stated that while BENYO was in Los Angeles he also visited FERENC KEFENE, who lives somewhere in Los Angeles, and undoubtedly he would be the only such person listed in the Los

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Angeles telephone book. He advised that CENE also could furnish information concerning BENYO's whereabouts, if he will.

AT HUNTINGTON BEACH, CALIFORNIA

The following investigation was conducted on April 22, 1966 by SA LEON J. MEYER:

KATHERINE YURENKA, 4131 Morning Star Drive, Huntington Beach, advised that she knew subject as a tenant in 1962 or 1963, while she was residing at the Elliott Arms Apartments, 1561 Seventh Avenue, San Diego, California, which apartment house she owns.

She stated BAK resided at the Elliott Arms for approximately six months, lived alone, had no associates, was not regularly employed. BAK claimed to be studying law and left the apartment at irregular hours, always dressed in a suit, wearing a hat and carrying a brown briefcase. On the few occasions she talked to him, he said he had been at the library studying.

She said BAK had difficulty paying the rent and left the apartment for that reason. He had no car and was a physical culture enthusiast.

YURENKA stated she had no information indicating BAK had any connection with any foreign government nor did he ever discuss his past with her. She stated her husband, STEVEN YURENKA, an employee of Douglas Aircraft, Long Beach, California, would have even less information concerning BAK than she does.

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

On May 2, 1966, Investigative Clerk JOSEPH O. ELDER, JR. was advised by personnel of the Federal Records Center, St. Louis, Missouri, that an extensive search of records on file at that center failed to locate or identify any record of Federal employment as a civil engineer during the period March 31, 1955 to February 28, 1959, with the Department of the Army, United States Corps of Engineers, Morocco Engineer Area, for one

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ANDRE BELA LOUIS HAZ, also known as Andrew Bela HAZ, born June 24, 1912, at Kolozsvar, Kolozs, Hungary.

Federal Records Center personnel further advised that a search of the Civil Service Commissions' Service Record Division "locator" files at that facility failed to indicate any prior Federal employment for the aforementioned individual, suggesting possibly the referenced period of employment was of a "local hire" nature, and records pertaining to same would probably be located at the place of such employment.

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